

**Environmental Assessment for the Temporary Stationing of a
Modular Brigade Combat Team (BCT) Unit of Action (UA) at
Fort Polk, Louisiana**

**PUBLIC SCOPING NOTICE
September 9, 2004**

The Department of the Army announced on July 23, 2004 that a Modular Brigade Combat Team (BCT) Unit of Action (UA) will be temporarily stationed at Fort Polk in fiscal year 2005. The new BCT/UA will be designated as the 4th Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (4/10th MTN) and structured as a light infantry unit. As part of the decision, the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment (2ACR) will move to Fort Lewis, Washington for transformation to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment (2CR), a Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT).

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and Army regulations, the U.S. Army, Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and Fort Polk is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the environmental and socioeconomic effects on Fort Polk and surrounding communities of stationing the 4/10th MTN at the installation. Additionally, Fort Polk will evaluate environmental stewardship activities needed to ensure the sustainability of installation training lands and natural resources.

The EA will be tiered to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) entitled *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment Transformation and Installation Mission Support, Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and Fort Polk, Louisiana and Long-Term Military Training Use of Kisatchie National Forest Lands*. The term "tiered" denotes a narrower, more focused environmental analysis that refers back to a broader EIS and incorporates information from the EIS by reference. The Final EIS analyzed the environmental impacts expected to result from the transformation of the 2ACR to a SBCT at Fort Polk. The Final EIS was completed in March 2004, and the Army signed its Record of Decision in May 2004. The mitigation and monitoring measures identified in the Final EIS will be carried forward in the EA.

As part of the EA process, a fifteen-day public scoping period will begin on September 9, 2004. Fort Polk is soliciting input from interested agencies, organizations, and individuals for assistance in determining the appropriate scope of the EA and in identifying issues of concern to be considered and analyzed. The Army encourages public input on this action. To assist the Army in identifying and evaluating issues and concerns, comments should be as specific as possible.

Please submit written comments to the address shown below no later than September 24, 2004. Public comments received after the specified date may not be included or addressed in the EA. Additional information on the stationing action and the EA process will be provided on the JRTC and Fort Polk web site at <http://www.jrtc-polk.army.mil/NEPA.htm>.

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